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opening the VPR;  
 executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined  
 information in the currently prescribed medications category; and  
 executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined  
 information in the allergies category; and  
 whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office:  
 inserting a printed copy of the VPR.

**IN THE DRAWING:**

Attached hereto is a Transmittal of Formal Drawings, the previous submitted proposed Drawing Corrections being approved in Paper No. 6.

**REMARKS**

A Final Office Action was mailed on December 3, 2002, and set a shortened three month statutory reply period. The instant Preliminary Amendment is part of a submission package including a CPA Request Transmittal, a Transmittal of Formal Drawing, a Nonpublication Request Under 35 U.S.C. §122(b)(2)(B)(i), and a Petition for an Extension of Time of Three Months.

Claim 1-19 are pending in the application, claim 19 being newly added by the Preliminary Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that the instant amendment does not add new matter to the above-identified application. An Appendix including a clean copy of newly added claim 19 is attached.

It is respectfully submitted that the Preliminary Amendment places the above-identified application in even better condition for initial examination. In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 34,231

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Attachments:

Appendix  
Transmittal of Formal Drawing

Date: June 3, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: VPR-001US

**APPENDIX**

19. A method of maintaining vital patient information complementing a hardcopy patient record (HCPR) maintained at a healthcare provider's office, comprising:

generating a digital vital patient record (VPR) corresponding to a patient;  
updating predetermined information in at least one of N categories in the VPR,  
wherein:

one of said N categories comprises currently prescribed medications;

one of said N categories comprises allergies; and

N is an integer greater than 2;

whenever the patient interacts with the healthcare provider's office:

opening the VPR;

executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the currently prescribed medications category; and

executing a drug interaction screening program using the predetermined information in the allergies category; and

whenever the HCPR is accessed in the healthcare provider's office:

inserting a printed copy of the VPR.